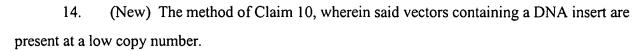
**Filed** 

May 4, 2001



- 15. (New) The method of Claim 10, wherein said first copy number is a high copy number and said second copy number is a low copy number.
- 16. (New) The method of Claim 10, wherein said vectors comprise at least one copy number indicator for indicating the copy number of said vectors in cells.
- 17. (New) The method of Claim 16, wherein said copy number indicator comprises a selectable marker.
- 18. (New) The method of Claim 10, wherein said screening step comprises determining the copy number of a vector.
- 19. (New) A method to determine the copy number of a vector comprising a truncated wD lacZ gene, said method comprising the steps of:

introducing said vector into a host cell, wherein said truncated lacZ gene, when present at a high copy number in said host cells, confers dark blue coloration to said host cells grown on a medium containing Xgal and IPTG, and wherein said truncated lacZ gene, when present at a low copy number in said host cells, confers light blue coloration to said host cells grown on said medium; and

determining the color of the host cells when the host cells are grown on said medium.

(New) A method to determine the copy number of a vector comprising the strA+ gene, said method comprising the steps of:

introducing said vector into a streptomycin resistant host cell, wherein said host cells are unable to grow in the presence of streptomycin when the strA gene is present at a high copy number and wherein said host cells are able to grow in the presence of streptomycin when the strA gene is present at a low copy number; and

determining the ability of said host cells to grow on a medium containing streptomycin.

## Remarks

Applicant has canceled Claims 1-9 and added new Claims 11-20. Accordingly, Claims 10-20 are pending for examination.